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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1947.

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## ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE AGREEMENT

### Result Of Blum- Attlee Talks

London, Jan. 15. An official communiqué issued in London to-night at the close of talks between the French Premier, M. Leon Blum, with the British Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, announces that it was agreed that a treaty of alliance should be concluded at the earliest possible moment with the object of preventing any further aggression by Germany and of preserving peace and security.

An official communiqué from the Prime Minister's residence at the close of the talks with M. Blum said: "The visit which M. Leon Blum, President of the French Government, has just paid to London has provided the opportunity for a joint examination of a number of problems of common interest to the governments of France and the United Kingdom and for a most useful exchange of views on a variety of questions.

The question of policy to be followed in regard to Germany was thoroughly examined. In the course of this examination it was recognised on both sides that it was in the interests of the two countries that effective steps should be taken to prevent the economic reconstruction of Germany, though necessary from many points of view, from becoming once again a menace to the peace of the world.

#### MORE COAL NEEDED

"It was recognised that increased imports of coal were necessary to the economic recovery of France and that increased coal production in the Ruhr was an essential factor in European reconstruction.

"It was admitted, however, that no immediate increase in exports from the Ruhr was possible and that in order to ensure the rehabilitation of the Ruhr mines and a progressive increase in exports from Germany adequate quantities of coal must be retained on the spot. Nevertheless, it was noted with satisfaction that provided production rose at the rate at present anticipated, the authorities in Germany envisage restoration by the end of April, 1947, of the level of exports in force before the cuts of last November. This first result once achieved, all efforts will continue to be made to increase progressively both production and exports until the vital needs of France and other importing countries can be met.

"It was recognised that the two countries having been twice attacked by Germany in a period of 25 years have an equal interest in protecting themselves against a fresh German menace. It was, therefore, agreed that in these circumstances a treaty of alliance should be concluded between them at the earliest possible moment within the framework of Article 52 of the Charter of the United Nations and with the object of preventing any further aggression by Germany and of preserving peace and security. It was agreed that

(Continued on Page 4)

#### "WINNIE'S" LIBEL SUIT SETTLED

London, Jan. 16. A published statement that Mr Winston Churchill's policies in Greece were influenced by his having been "bailed out of bankruptcy" by British bankers with Greek interests was withdrawn in open court yesterday when it was announced that his libel suit against the author and publisher of the book "Dinner at the White House" had been settled.

Disclosing that the author, Louis Adamic, and the publisher, Harper and Brothers, have agreed to pay "substantial damages" to the wartime Prime Minister, his Counsel, Mr G. O. Slade said in the King's Bench Division that both admitted without qualification that the statement was unfounded and apologised for having made it.—Associated Press.

#### Indo-China Situation

### APPEAL TO RED CROSS

#### Desperate Plight Of Civilians

Paris, Jan. 16. Dispatches from Saigon last night said that the French High Commissioner for Indo-China had appealed to the International Red Cross to intercede for 425 French civilians and thousands of Chinese seized by the Viet Namhese Nationalists as hostages.

Admiral George Thierry d'Argenlie, the High Commissioner, said the appeal was suggested by French Colonial Minister, M. Marius Moutet, who recently spent 15 days in Indo-China on a first hand inspection tour. It was inspired, he added, by "humanitarian motives" and was not to be construed as a move to launch political negotiations on this level with the Viet Namhese. The High Commissioner said he had a list of 425 French civilians held as captives.

Many scattered groups of Chinese have been reported seized by the Viet Namhese and 10,000 Chinese are being held in one section of Hanoi where French troops have surrounded an estimated 1,000 Viet Namhese soldiers belonging to the "Tu Ve" group of fanatical young Nationalists.

**THE FIGHTING FRONT**  
On the fighting front, the French General Staff reported that Viet Namhese advancing across the Laos-Annam border 85 miles southwest of Hanoi were driven back into Annam territory by French troops. Laos is one of the five States of the Indo-Chinese nation. Other clashes were reported at Langson, where racing bands described by the communiques as "Chinese pirates," attempted depredations; at Hanoi, where patrol operations continued and in Son La, in the hill country, where French troops reported they were driving out detachments of Annamite Viet Nam supporters.—Associated Press.

#### EDITORIAL

### Welcome Back!

In June last the Colony anxiously watched the Hon. Mr D. M. MacDougall, Colonial Secretary, leave for England on sick furlough. The colony knew that he had overworked himself in those hectic, timeless days of D-Day; had become the victim of a recurring throat ailment. The anxiety reflected the possibility that "Mac" might not become fit enough to return; and if there was one man the colony wanted to see back again to help guide Hongkong through the tortuous trail of rehabilitation, changing social, economic and political conditions, and so to stability and prosperity, it was MacDougall.

Lake last week he returned fit and well and on behalf of the colony we say, "Welcome back!" The Hon. C. S. will find that quite a few changes have taken place in Hongkong since June, 1946—many of them to the credit of the administrators and business chiefs he left behind. Prosperity, of a certain type, has come to Hongkong to a degree that is almost embarrassing; there is money galore, but few outlets for it, apart from luxury spending and black market currency speculating. Save for rice, which is a world problem, there is no food shortage. The harbour is bustling every day of the week, rapidly bringing back our pre-war entrepot trade, and much needed commodities are coming here in increasing quantities. The currency remains stable and the economy of the colony, though somewhat inflationary, is on a better level than any other city in the Far East.

On the other hand there are a number of matters still awaiting attention and decision—housing, the Moratorium, Junior Clerical Service salaries, the government promotion system, the Volunteers and crime, to mention some of the more pressing. In the background is the question, just how much self-government shall Hongkong be given and what shall be its machinery?

These, and other problems, are bound to exercise the mind and attention of our returned Colonial Secretary. They will test his sagacity, initiative and ingenuity just as much as anything during the British Military Administration. But Mr MacDougall has proved himself once, and Hongkong is quite confident he will do it again—to the advantage of the community as a whole.

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

## TRANSPORT STRIKE TO CONTINUE

### Men Vote Against Peace Move

London, Jan. 15. To-day's moves to end the great British transport strike have failed.

The meeting this evening to decide the fate of the strike, which is now estimated to involve up to 60,000 men, resulted in a heavy vote for its continuance.

The first peace move, after the setting up of a new joint industrial council, designed to streamline the transport drivers' nine months old negotiations for better wages and conditions, was a secret meeting this morning between strikers' leaders and officials of their unions, who have not sanctioned the strike. This was followed by a conference of strikers' delegates, at which Mr Arthur Deakin, the Union chief, urged the men to return to work so that negotiations could be resumed.

After four tense hours of discussion, Mr Deakin withdrew to allow the delegates to weigh up the position and vote in a "calm atmosphere."

**STRIKE SPREADING**  
Meanwhile the strike, which began ten days ago with transport workers at Smithfield market, London, continued spreading throughout London and the provinces. Last night's estimates of the number of men idle varied from 30,000 to 40,000, accurate figures being made difficult by the number of small and scattered groups involved.

To-day, London dockers, rejecting their union's advice to remain at work, called for a strike as a result of troops being brought into the markets to distribute the capital's food. Within an hour, 2,000 men were said to be idle. By noon an official of the National Dock Labour Committee estimated the total at 6,000.

As the afternoon wore on, unofficial estimates were saying that 15,000 dockers had already struck and the number was expected to reach 24,000 by to-night.

Now then came that an unofficial committee, claiming to represent 15,000 catering workers was to call upon the Government to withdraw the troops within 72 hours or they too would strike.

**PROVINCES REACT**  
The stoppage spread rapidly in the provinces too. Reports of sympathetic action to-day included a strike of 300 long-distance drivers at Newcastle-on-Tyne in the North and of all the men employed by the Bristol Haulage Company, one of the biggest transport firms in the West.

Meanwhile the troops originally brought into Smithfield market to clear the meat stocks there moved into Covent Garden and Smithfield markets but found no supplies there to handle.

At the close of to-day's meeting, a union leader said: "The meeting stands adjourned until to-morrow morning. A further meeting will take place with the strike committee and the conference will be recalled to-morrow afternoon. I am hopeful that it will bring the business to a close."—Reuter.

#### BOMBS & ARMS CACHE FOUND

#### Jerusalem Incident

Jerusalem, Jan. 16. Police here yesterday said that persons "believed to be Jews" fired on three Arab labourers in the vicinity of Jerusalem, leading to a search in which a substantial cache of bombs and arms was discovered in a bush in a Jewish village close to the scene of the alleged shooting.

None of the Arabs was hit.

The police also reported the discovery of three suitcases full of gelignite and explosives near a Jewish school at Tiberias on the shores of Lake Galilee. The ownership of the explosives was not determined.

A military announcement yesterday said that General Sir Evelyn Barker had remitted the 12 strokes whipping sentence on an Arab youth convicted on a charge of possession of a gun.

This followed the remission of a similar sentence against a Jewish youth, who has admitted to have been a member of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, who was recently convicted of a charge of carrying a pamphlet bomb.—Associated Press.

#### INTERMENT CAMP RAID

Rome, Jan. 15. The Milan correspondent of the Rome newspaper, "Messaggero," states the Italian and Italian police have raided the Jewish internment camp at Gorgonzola, near Turin, suspected to be a centre of the Irgun Zvai Leumi Jewish terrorist activity.

Long investigations have proved fruitless, the correspondent added.—Reuter.

### Byrd Expedition Racing Towards Little America

New York, Jan. 15. Admiral Richard E. Byrd who is aboard the carrier Philippine Sea, is now racing southward with the Little America base virtually in sight.

#### EXPULSION FOR SMERTENKO

#### Quick Action

London, Jan. 15. Professor J. J. Smertenko, Vice-President of the American League for a Free Palestine, will be expelled from this country to-morrow.

To-night he is being kept in the village police station at Wallington, Surrey. To-morrow he will be transported out of Britain in the same plane in which he arrived at Croydon—one of London's main aerodromes—this afternoon, defying the British ban on his entry into this country.

Where he will be sent is not yet stated. He came from Paris. On his arrival at Croydon, he was taken away in a police car with three detectives among its passengers.

Professor Smertenko, who had landed from a private plane accompanied by two United States newspapermen, selected as being "representatives of the American press," is a United States citizen. He was last in London in December and before leaving then, he referred to the "British reign of terror" in Palestine.

After questions were asked in the House of Commons whether the British Government knew he was openly financing "terrorist organisations in Palestine" and whether he would be allowed to form a branch of his organisation in Britain, it was officially announced that steps have been taken to exclude him from entering Britain in the future.—Reuter.

#### OKLAHOMA'S LAST TRIP

Honolulu, Jan. 15. A Pearl Harbour victim, the old battleship Oklahoma will be moved to-morrow into the naval anchorage at Pearl Harbour to be fitted for her last trip—to the mainland and the scrapheap at the Moore Drydock, Oakland.

Sunk in the first ten minutes of the Japanese sneak attack, the Oklahoma was raised in 1943 but was stripped of her superstructure and turrets.—United Press.

### MARSHALL ASSURED OF REPUBLICAN SUPPORT

Washington, Jan. 16. General Marshall becomes Secretary of State this week with assurances from Senator Vandenberg of Republican support on major diplomatic issues expected to arise during the months ahead.

Senator Vandenberg last week urged a policy shift in China, urging the United States now should support coalition of non-Communist parties backing China's new Constitution. This evidently would mean abandoning the policy which General Marshall followed in China of a policy of equality between the Communists and the Nationalists.

Diplomatic authorities noted that Senator Vandenberg's recommendation of American backing for Constitutional parties in China may not necessarily conflict with what General Marshall wants to do there. It is no secret that he was considerably disappointed at failure of the Chinese Communists to join in the final drafting of the new constitution under which the Chinese Government is to be reorganised and broadened.

Hence, if the Communists persist in their refusal to accept the new Constitution, General Marshall himself, some informants say, may favour throwing American support to the other group.—Associated Press.

#### THEY OWE WORLD A LIVING

Kyogle, Australia. Farmer B. Thornton here believes pigs should be made to work for their living. To further this idea he has devised a pig feeding machine which makes the hungry swine grind their food.

Called the Thornton feeder, the device is made of steel, weighs 76 pounds and stands about four feet high. The feed is placed in a hopper at the top, which takes 112 pounds of grains. It passes down beneath grinding plates into a shallow trough at the bottom. To get at the grain, the pigs must push back a steel flap. This operates the grinders which crush the grain.

The feeder gives the pigs exercise, excites their curiosity and encourages them to eat. He said that "working pigs" using it showed gains in weight up to three pounds a day. The idea is, said the inventor, pigs must work to root out their food when they are free and should also do so in captivity.—Associated Press.

#### Controversy

### Over New Gov-General

Sydney, Jan. 15. Controversy flared up again to-day over the suggested appointment of Mr William John McKell, Labour Premier of New South Wales, to succeed the Duke of Gloucester as Governor-General of Australia.

The British Empire Union has telephoned to Mr Joseph Chifley, Australian Prime Minister, saying: "The British Empire Union in Australia imploring you to take a long view before committing yourself to the appointment of any native party politician to represent the King in Australia. The snags in the stream of unity are already too numerous."

Mr Robert Menzies, leader of the opposition, raising the matter in the House of Representatives yesterday for the second time in a few weeks, said that the point at issue was whether an active party leader should be transferred by his own party to a post which by tradition and necessity be completely free from party politics.

Replying to earlier criticisms in Parliament on November 28, Mr Chifley said: "I have much regard for the interests of the community and Empire ties which bind this Commonwealth of Nations as has any member of the opposition."—Reuter.

### AUSTRALIA ADVOCATES A DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

New York, Jan. 16. Australia yesterday proposed that the United Nations Security Council should create a disarmament commission and rush consideration of atomic energy control.

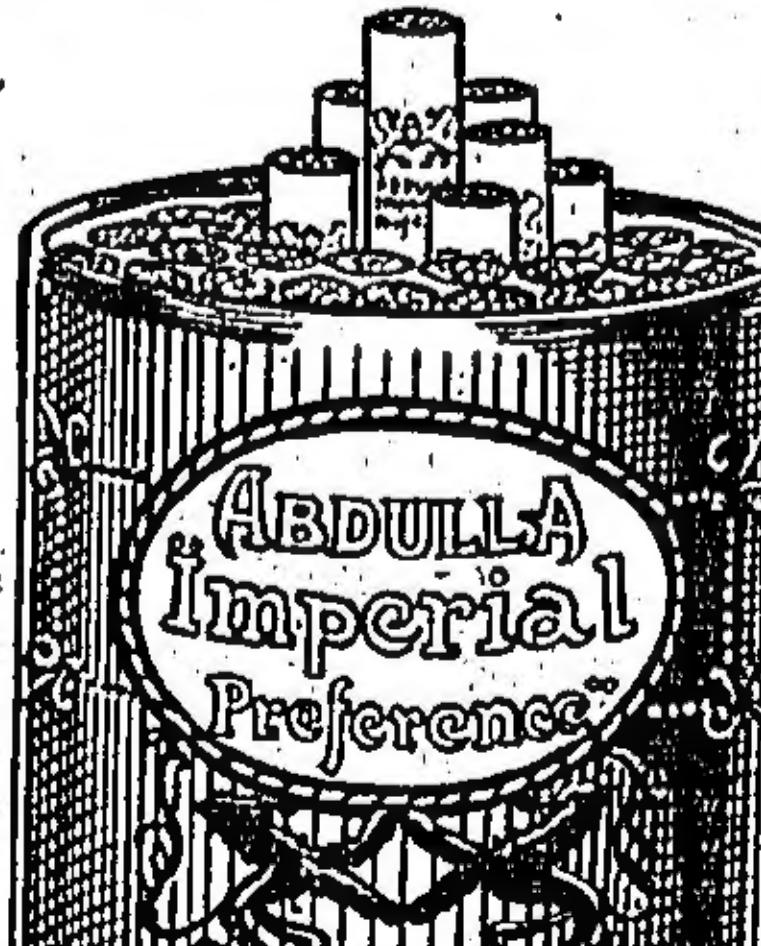
The chairman, Mr Norman Mailer, submitted a resolution providing:

1. For a disarmament commission to work out arms limitation proposals;
2. For the Atomic Energy Commission to continue work on controls;
3. For the Military Staff Committee to draft proposals for a United Nations International police force;
4. For the Disarmament Commission, The Atomic Energy Commission and the Military Staff Committee to submit reports before April 30;
5. For the Security Council to expedite consideration of the first report of the Atomic Energy Commission which contains the United States plan for control.—Associated Press.

A. I. P.

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## POCKET CARTOON



"Coo, Billy, here comes  
a luxury liner!"

Fifty years on

# "WHITE MAN'S GRAVE"

S IERRA Leone, a territory about the size of Scotland on the west coast of Africa, which in several ways played an important part in World War II, is in the news again. It has just been celebrating its Protectorate Jubilee and the inauguration of a new advisory Assembly, composed of a majority of elected African members.

Foreigners are not to raise their eyebrows and sneer when the British Empire is mentioned. It was acquired, it would appear from their remarks, by a combination of skull-duggery, jumping the gun, and the three-card trick.

But there was certainly nothing perfidious about our acquisition of Sierra Leone. We didn't go there with the object of gaining commercial advantages, nor through any blithesome desire to paint another blot of red on world atlases. Indeed, for a very long time, it was an embarrassment to the British Government. But a chain of circumstances bound us to this territory, and to-day we can look back on our 90 years of administration there as an era of progress in the economic, social and constitutional spheres of one of the most backward spots in the African continent.

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IT all started back in the 18th century, through the action of some private philanthropists in Britain following the abolition of slavery. To provide for homeless negroes who were wandering about England in a desolate condition, they purchased a strip of territory of 21 square miles round what is now Freedown from an African chief. There they started a settlement of 400 emancipated slaves, to whom were added some 60 white women taken from London and Portsmouth, who were made intoxicated and shanghaied on board ship, and then informed that certain negroes were their husbands. For the first six months, they received a daily allowance from the "Sierra Leone Company," after which lords were assigned to them, and they were left to support themselves.

These first settlers had a rough time. They spoke English and had embraced Christianity, and were regarded by the natives as aliens; every now and again the tribes would burn and plunder their settlements, while French revolutionaries also contributed with a bombardment and such of Freedown in 1794.

The Company, in fact, became a constant and costly headache to the good samaritans who promoted the scheme and they asked the Government to take it out of their hands.

To protect the luckless freedmen, it was transferred to the Crown in 1807.

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IN this way, the Empire acquired Freedown, the best natural harbour on the west coast of Africa, which became the headquarters of the Flag Officer Commanding West Africa in the late war and provided a valuable anchorage for large ocean convoys on their way to the Middle East after the Mediterranean had been closed.

But back in 1807, it seemed a white elephant. The hinterland was one vast, almost impenetrable forest, and there was no trade entering or leaving the port. The climate was damp and still is very unhealthy—the territory was long called "the white man's grave"—and the imported negroes died like flies. It has more rain than Manchester, and when it isn't raining, there are tornadoes and long periods when the Harmattan blows a dry, desiccating wind full of the white dust of the Sahara.

Major Hamilton Kirk, well-known London veterinary surgeon, advises against the use of preparations containing more than 3 per cent of DDT for pets.

Those which use oil to dissolve the DDT should be avoided. In this form dogs and cats can absorb the poison through the skin.

## About pets

A STRONG warning against the indiscriminate use of DDT insecticide on cats and dogs has been issued by the National Veterinary Medical Association.

Pets are getting large numbers of pests suffering from severe DDT poisoning. The animals swallow the chemical, applied to rid them of insect pests, while licking their fur. Cats are more susceptible than dogs to the poison.

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## About space-ships

A RADIO transmitter with a range of millions of miles is planned by a team of French scientists, who hope to visit the moon and Mars by rocket-ship. It will be designed to keep the scientists led by Dr Alexander Ananoff—in constant touch with the world during their journeys through space.

Dr M. Laffineur, radio adviser to the group, reports that it would be possible to build a world-based transmitter with a range of nearly 100,000,000 miles.

Using a system of curved mirrors and 300 kilowatts of power, he says it could guide the space-ship and send messages to its crew over a great part of the solar system.

A miniaturised transmitter is planned for fitting in the spaceship.

## About health

A N artificial kidney made of Cellophane has been invented by Dr G. W. Koff, a Dutch physiologist, working at a London hospital.

It has already saved five lives and prolonged others.

Impure blood, drawn from a patient's arm, is passed through 40 yards of Cellophane tube immersed in a special fluid kept at blood heat.

Impurities pass through the Cellophane and the purified blood returns to the body.

The machine, which is about 4 ft high, is used in cases of kidney trouble to keep the patient alive while curative treatment on the kidneys is completed.

Dr Koff warns that not every severe case of kidney disease is suitable for treatment with the machine.

It was not a spot to which colonial officials or white settlers went with any relish, and a wit once said that Sierra Leone always had two governors—one just arrived in the colony and the other just arrived in Britain. An exaggeration, of course, but in one period of 22 years there were as many as 17 changes, many being due to deaths.

Having established ourselves on the coast to uphold the abolition of

slavery, we were continually obliged to intervene in the interior to suppress the traffic in human beings, which incidentally was not fully stamped out until after World War I. This led to further acquisitions of territory against opposition at home.

And then in 1893, our forces clashed with the French, who had been spreading farther and farther in Africa, with heavy casualties on both sides. We received £80,000 in compensation and, after a good deal of negotiation, an agreement between the two Powers was signed delimiting British and French spheres. Finally, a Protectorate was declared. In 1896 over the area assigned to us. This covers 27,250 sq. miles of hilly and plateau country, with just under 2,000,000 population, bounded on the west by French Guinea and south by Liberia.

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It was not a spot to which colonial officials or white settlers went with any relish, and a wit once said that Sierra Leone always had two governors—one just arrived in the colony and the other just arrived in Britain. An exaggeration, of course, but in one period of 22 years there were as many as 17 changes, many being due to deaths.

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# Diplomats' Code Of Conduct

London, Jan. 15. The code of conduct for members of the British Foreign Service, published in the official London Gazette, bars members from standing for Parliament, gives warning about divorce and marriage to non-British subjects and lists negligence with official documents as a possible "grave disciplinary offence."

The code, "Regulations for His Majesty's Foreign Service," is the first of its kind to be made and published in any part of the world.

"If a member of the Foreign Service becomes involved in a matrimonial suit which may, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, bring discredit upon that member or upon the Service, the Secretary of State may call upon him to resign," the regulations state.

Marriage to a person of non-British nationality may well diminish the office's utility as a British representative abroad and may even result in there being no post in the Foreign Service to which he can properly be appointed.

Members are barred from accepting without permission any post in the management of any trading, commercial, financial or professional firm even after resignation.—Reuter.

## SMUGGLING OF GOLD ALLEGED

Belgrade, Jan. 15. Stephen Zollner, Hungarian-born wealthy timber merchant, described as a naturalized British subject, was charged on four counts of smuggling gold and stock market offences before a Belgrade court to-day. He was arrested in September last.

The main charge against Zollner, who was a former representative of the Timber Control Division of the British Ministry of Supply, was of smuggling out of Yugoslavia 200 gold sovereigns, purported to have been buried during the war by a member of the British military mission to General Draja Mihailovich.

The prosecution introduced a sketch map of the area where it is alleged the gold lay buried. Zollner said that the map was given to him by the head of the British military mission.

The other charges were of attempting to smuggle 700 gold sovereigns from Serbia—also alleged to have been buried by the British mission—across the Yugo-Slav border, and of smuggling letters into Yugoslavia from leading Yugo-Slav emigres and selling gold sovereigns on the Belgrade black market.

The court adjourned until Thursday, when Zollner—is expected to plead.—Reuter.

## American Request Rejected

London, Jan. 15. The Soviet Foreign Minister, M. Vyncheslav Molotov, rejected a direct United States request to join in making demands to Poland for strict observance of free elections four days hence, on the grounds that such a demand was uncalled for, Moscow Radio revealed.

Moscow broadcast the text of the notes exchanged between the United States Ambassador to Moscow, Lt.-Gen Walter Bedell Smith, and M. Molotov, in which Gen Smith said word from inside Poland was that electoral abuses were raging and efforts to stop them had failed.—United Press.

## H. K. A. A.

Will any motorist willing to loan the Handbook, or other literature of The Hongkong Automobile Association kindly communicate with the Manager, "Hongkong Telegraph" Morning Post Building.

### Coming Soon

#### VIVIEN LEIGH CLAUDE RAINS

STEWART GRANGER  
STANLEY HOLLOWAY  
FLORA ROBSON AND  
A CAST OF 1,000

in  
BERNARD SHAW'S  
Mighty Spectacle  
in TECHNICOLOR!

#### CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA

Watch For It.

## NANKING'S NEW OFFER TO YENAN

Nanking, Jan. 15. The United States Ambassador, Dr Leighton Stuart, will bring a new set of Government peace proposals to Yenan as soon as they are drawn up, Government negotiator Shao Li-tze announced last night.

Dr Stuart, interviewed by Reuter, said that the latest developments on the Chinese political front seemed to be "pregnant with possibility."—Reuter.

## Anglo-French Alliance

(Continued from Page 1)

negotiations to this end should be opened as soon as possible.

The two governments were furthermore convinced that the conclusion of such treaty would facilitate a settlement in the spirit of mutual understanding of all questions arising between the two countries.

"In view of the close links which exist between the two countries in the commercial and industrial fields, it was agreed that directions should be given to the French and British representatives on the Anglo-French Economic Committee to press on urgently with their task of examining their respective reconstruction plans with a view to preventing conflicts between them. It was noted that the committee would meet in Paris in a few days' time and that this would afford the opportunity of discussing the full implications of the Monnet Plan."

"It was arranged that there should be a further meeting as soon as the British Economic White Paper had been debated in Parliament."

Reuter's Diplomatic Correspondent, commenting on the Anglo-French talks, to-night writes:

"Political observers consider the decision to go ahead with negotiations for an Anglo-French alliance to be one of the most momentous in the whole history of the two countries. The decision taken during the two-day London talks between M. Leon Blum and Mr Clement Attlee and Mr Ernest Bevin was given the warmest welcome in official quarters here-to-night."

**TRIANGLE OF TREATIES**

If the negotiations go smoothly, as they are expected to do in view of the considerable amount of consideration which the question has already received in the past two years, conclusion of an alliance will complete the triangle of post-war treaties linking the East and West, begun by the Anglo-Soviet Agreement of 1942, and followed by a similar Franco-Soviet Alliance in December, 1944.

The possibility of completing this triangle by an Anglo-French Alliance and so of the putting of the long-standing Entente between the two countries on a firm footing has been under consideration in London and Paris ever since the liberation of France from German occupation in August, 1944.

The fact that the decisive step has been so long delayed was due to the wish of successive French and British governments first to clear away outstanding causes of friction. The chief among these were Franco-British disagreements about the independence of the Levant States, settled after the London meeting of the Security Council in February last year, and about French claims on the Ruhr, Rhine land and Saar. Recently, French and British views of the future of Germany's western territories have moved much closer together and during M. Blum's visit to London Mr Attlee was able to allay some of the fears of the French Government that economic co-operation between Britain and Germany might develop to the injury of French interests.

**TO FOLLOW MODEL**

The decision to conclude an alliance should also do much to calm the heart-burning evident in France after the recent visit to London of the German Social Democratic leader, Dr Kurt Schumacher.

The form of alliance is expected in usually well-informed quarters to follow closely the model of the earlier Anglo-Soviet and Franco-Soviet pacts and consequently not to present great drafting difficulties. Both these pacts have a life of 20 years. Both have clauses stating that the parties will take common action to preserve peace to the post-war world; to give each other military aid in the event of further threat from Germany on her wartime allies; to collaborate within the framework of the United Nations; to render each other economic assistance and to refrain from concluding an alliance or joining a coalition directed against the other party.

To-day's official communiqué specifically points out that the treaty will be concluded within the scope of Article 52 of the United Nations Charter, permitting the existence of regional pacts.

Diplomatic observers in London to-night were expressing the hope that one result of the alliance would be to give French people that feeling of security against any further German aggression, which they have sought for so long.—Reuter.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED

Cairo, Jan. 15.

Sabry Abu Alaa Pasha, opposition leader, told the Egyptian Senate to-day that he believed that now developments in the Sudan question, one of the main stumbling blocks to the Anglo-Egyptian treaty agreement, would take place before Monday. The Senate adjourned its debate on the subject until then.—Reuter.

# JAPAN FACES SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS

## Soviet Claim To Island Disputed

London, Jan. 16.

A Foreign Office spokesman challenged yesterday a new Soviet claim to the Arctic island of Medvezhi, in the strategic Spitzbergen archipelago, and said Russia remained bound by the 1920 international treaty demilitarising the islands.

This comment came after the Soviet news agency, Tass, quoting "authoritative Soviet sources" said that Medvezhi "actually is a Russian island" and announced that Russia and Norway had agreed on the necessity of joint defence in the Arctic.

"We are unaware that the Soviet Union have any valid claim to any island in the region," the spokesman said. "That is Norwegian territory."

Tass said that the 1920 treaty could not remain valid because its signatories included nations which fought against the Allies.

**View Not Accepted**

The Foreign Office official said that Britain could not accept that view. He remarked that many existing treaties bore the signatures of "enemy states," including the Meuseux Convention and the Hague Convention, and said: "It has never hitherto been suggested that they be renegotiated because of this fact."

Britain has no knowledge of any Soviet-Norwegian agreement on the necessity of joint defence, the spokesman said.

The 1920 treaty, he added, provided that the islands should not be used for what he called "warlike purposes."

Of the Tass statement that the treaty was negotiated without the knowledge and participation of the Soviet Union, the spokesman said that the Soviets had later accepted the treaty and "must therefore be bound by it."—Associated Press.

## GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA

Atlanta, Georgia, Jan. 15.

The death of Eugene Talmadge, who was elected Democratic governor of Georgia but died before his installation, has led to a dispute over his succession.

The General Assembly yesterday elected Talmadge's son, Herman Talmadge, on the ground that he received the next largest number of votes on election day.

The retiring governor, Mr Ellis Arnall, also a Democrat, announced, however, that he would not surrender his office except to Mr H. E. Thompson, who was elected Lieutenant-Governor on the Senior Talmadge's ticket and who claims he should succeed to the governorship under State laws.—Reuter.

## SPANISH ENVOY GOES HOME

London, Jan. 15.

The Spanish Ambassador to Britain, Senor Domingo de la Barcas, left London by air for Madrid to-day.

He was instructed by his government to leave Britain after the General Assembly of the United Nations decided that member states should withdraw the heads of their diplomatic missions from Madrid.

The British Ambassador to Spain, Sir Victor Mallet, was recalled to London about two weeks ago.

## ALLEGATIONS BY PRAVDA

(Continued from Page 1)

Moscow, Jan. 15. The Communist Party organ Pravda to-day asserted that Mr Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, had renounced the Anglo-Soviet agreement providing for co-operation and mutual aid in postwar days.

Commenting on Mr Bevin's broadcast to the nation on December 22 on the work of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Pravda asked that when Mr Bevin stated that Britain was not tying herself up with anybody, had he forgotten the 20-year Anglo-Soviet treaty?

"Mr Bevin could not possibly have forgotten it when he said that Britain was not adhering to anything except her obligations under the United Nations Charter," added the paper. "Nevertheless, Mr Bevin's declaration that Britain is remaining independent remains at fact."

The situation looks as follows: Yesterday Mr Bevin proposed to extend the validity of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty to 50 years and to-day he ignores the existence of such a treaty.

"This shows what Mr Bevin's proposal was worth. The proposal was not serious and did not express a genuine desire for the strengthening of relations with the Soviet Union."

"After Mr Bevin's announcement about Britain's independence, it is of course possible to give different interpretations to the true meaning of Britain's foreign policy, bearing in mind that Mr Bevin's words do not always correspond to what actually takes place in the British foreign policy."

"But one thing has become quite clear after the declaration: Mr Bevin renounces the British-Soviet agreement about mutual aid."—Reuter.

Tokyo, Jan. 16. Dr Sherwood M. Fine, chief economic advisor to SCAP's Economic and Scientific Section, is scheduled to leave by plane for Washington to-day where it is expected he will discuss with government officials the entire subject of Japanese economy and continued American financing of Japanese industrial rehabilitation.

With the most serious economic crisis since the occupation began threatening to paralyse Japanese industry through lack of raw materials, diminishing stockpiles, deteriorating machinery and prospect of further inflation, it is believed that Dr Fine will undoubtedly present a case for continuing aid to Japanese economy in the face of the Republican Congress being openly determined to economise everywhere.

It is not secret that some of the earlier rosy prospects envisioned for Japanese foreign trade did not materialise. Some official quarters estimate that the United States Government is already some \$500,000 in the red on Japanese food and raw materials imports as against Japanese exports sold to American and other business interests on the government to government basis.

One reason is the disappointing price of raw silk, long the backbone of Japanese export trade. Although showing an increase over Japanese production one year ago, both American and Japanese observers predict a breakdown in practically every point in the Japanese industrial programme.

The Bank of Japan index shows a 600 percent rise in wholesale prices and more than 1,000 percent rise in retail prices since October 1945.

**False Economy**

The inflationary trend, it is feared, will spiral higher as existing stocks of consumer goods diminish and neither imports nor Japanese manufactured goods can replace them.

It is pointed out that however drastically the appropriations for Japan are cut, it would be false economy.

While the country could thus be kept functioning on a pauper basis indefinitely so long as the American foreign policy is committed to keeping a guiding hand on Japan, it would be a never-ending drain on the American taxpayer without solving the problem.

On the other hand, only if "sufficient" appropriations are granted to Japan this year and the next, through government, for the relief of occupied areas, would the budget be self-supporting and Japanese economy possible.

It is felt that without such revitalised economy Japan would never be able to attain a stable government of democratic equilibrium, which is the occupation's chief goal.

Despite talk of the "death blow" which reparations may deal Japan, this is not held to be the basic factor of the looming Japanese economic crisis.

**Vital Equipment**

Some SCAP officials hold that since the occupation authorities are really running Japan through the Japanese Government they should take a direct part in halting the "disgrace" in blackmarketing of vital industrial equipment.

It has been estimated that only 65 percent of Japan's available raw materials are used in the top priority industries—coal mining, steel plants and fertilizer production. The rest are siphoned off into quick-profit blackmarketeer enterprises, and the Japanese Government does nothing about it.

These sources maintain that since the United States is footling the bill she should take more aggressive action in seeing that the goods she paid for are used to amortise the debt.—United Press.

## FREE PERSIAN ELECTION

Tehran, Jan. 15. Ghamam as Sultanz, Persian Prime Minister, told Reuter to-day that the Persian general election, the final results of which will be available in two months time—was taking place without any interference by foreign powers.

The elections were "absolutely free" he said.

The Anglo-American-Persian oil agreement and the construction of a pipeline was a purely commercial matter interesting only the countries concerned, the Premier added.

He said that elections for the Teheran area would end on Saturday and that provincial elections would start immediately afterwards.—Reuter.

## INDIAN COMMUNISTS DENOUNCE RAIDS

New Delhi, Jan. 16. The Government of India said last night that the widespread raiding of Communist offices and leaders' homes yesterday in many of India's principal cities was not done by the direction of the Central Government, but at the request of the Bombay police in connection with the investigation of a Bombay newspaper.

While the Government was preparing a press note on the raids, which extended to some trade unions and the office of the Communist Party newspaper, Peoples' Age, a Communist leader in Delhi declared that the move was the first step in an attempt to break the working class movement and the peasant unions.

He added: "I do not think they will be successful. It is too late in the day to break them this way."

Mr Dange and several associates who held a press conference, said the Union offices were raided because almost all the unions have large Communist memberships, and added that the People's Theatre office in Delhi was also searched on behalf of the Friends of the Soviet Union office in Lahore.

One of Mr Dange's colleagues said the Home Department of the Central Government issued a circular on November 13 ordering all Communist Party members and sympathisers to be "weeded out" of Government employment.—Associated Press.

They were told that the British Government had nothing to do with the matter but refused to disperse.

This was their second demonstration in three days.—Reuter.

## MENON IS INDIA'S ENVOY TO CHINA

Now Delhi, Jan. 16.

Mr K. P. S. Menon was last night named India's Ambassador to China.

Mr Menon, an Oxford graduate, has been Indian Agent-General in China since 1943. He was a delegate to the San Francisco and New York United Nations conference in 1945 and 1946. — Associated Press.

## HIGH COURT HEARS U.S. COAL CASE

Washington, Jan. 16.

Government sources predicted to-day that part of the soft coal industry will ask John Lewis to negotiate a new contract before the March 31 deadline Lewis set for the next miners' strike.

Southern and far western operators have served notices that they will refuse to negotiate pending a Supreme Court decision but the northern and mid-western operators are reportedly ready to begin.

A spokesman said to-day that the United Mineworkers Union is confident the Supreme Court will reverse the contempt of court convictions, but the high court's verdict is not expected for three weeks.

Before the court took the case under advisement after a four-hour heated argument with Attorney General